



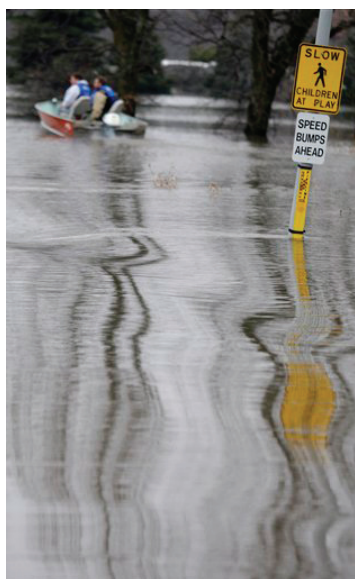
**Price of a barrel  
of petroleum  
today:**

**US\$ 54.34**

**INSIDE TODAY**

**U.S. NEWS**

## FAR GONE

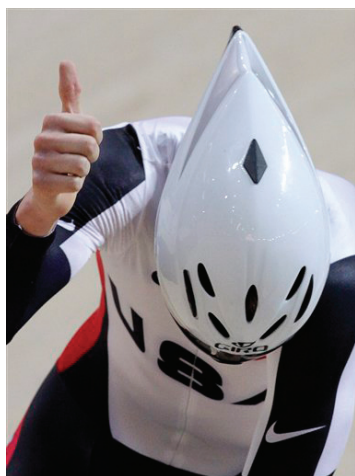


Doug Stensguard guides his boat through Heritage Hills neighborhood, back to his floodwater surrounded home, Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in Fargo, N.D. Stensguard built an earthen and sandbag dike around his home in the hope of holding back the rising floodwater from the Red River.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

**SPORTS NEWS**

## TAYLOR MADE



Taylor Phinney of the U.S. reacts after winning the Men's Individual Pursuit in the World Track Cycling Championships at Pruszkow, near Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, March 26, 2009.

See *Sports Today*

*New political Generations meet!*

# Joe Kennedy addresses Aruba last night



ORANJESTAD – Last night at the Aruba Renaissance Convention Center, Joe Kennedy was the Keynote Speaker for “To Seek a Newer World” New Leadership Award Dinner. Recently, it was a friendly moment amidst the history of his uncle and father, President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy at the Kennedy Library in Massachusetts, Robert Kennedy’s eldest son welcomed the Aruban political leader who shares his history of being born at the heart of generations of public servants, Mike Eman.

Eman and Kennedy came together because of a common history and a common interest, to serve the general interest and to raise the quality of life, especially of those more unfortunate in the community. The search for affordable alternatives for energy became the common ground on which the leader of the AVP, Mike Eman and Joe Kennedy wish to intensify their exchange of possibilities that should make the cost of energy more affordable for the citizen and his family.

After a few exchanges, the new generation of legendary American and Aruban politicians decided to meet and the place for this meeting could not be more appropriate: the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. A place where the presence of the political legends, John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy can be felt. Here, one can experience how the world honors the memory of President Kennedy and how programs, individuals, ideas and words associated with him, continue to resonate til this day. The images captured forever and the voices registered for eternity with leadership that inspired the whole world bring the memories of John F. Kennedy and those of Robert F. Kennedy so present and alive in this historic location.

Joe Kennedy is the eldest son of Robert F. Kennedy. He was a member of the US Congress for a few terms. After the political career of this next generation Kennedy, he dedicated himself to help the less fortunate in a more direct manner. He founded the Citizens Energy Corporation to help less fortunate families get free energy to be able to survive the cold winters. Kennedy elaborated with Eman on his program. Many are those who are almost dying of cold in the winter time because they do not have the money to pay for the energy needed to heat their homes. His program helps thousands of families with free fuel so they can survive the winter.

Mike Eman expressed feelings of honor and recognition for the inspiration that the Kennedy family had on so many people all over the world. For Eman himself, Robert Kennedy is a political idol who stood up for the forgotten, the discriminated and the abandoned. A mutual affection of ancestors from legendary generations who chose to continue the mission of their ancestors could be felt between Joe and Mike.

Joe Kennedy showed Mike the pleasant memories of his uncle and his father by symbolically offering Mike Eman the bust of his father, Robert F. Kennedy as a gesture of appreciation for this new friendship and for Mike Eman’s admiration for his father. Mike Eman also gave Joe Kennedy a few memorable gifts of his father and grandfather. During their meeting, they discussed more in depth how they will be exchanging more ideas on the topic of payable energy for the people and how they will work together to stimulate the sense of service to one’s community in the next generation, which is one of the primary goals of the Kennedy Library which remembers the words of President John F. Kennedy: “we celebrate the past to awaken the future”. Kennedy and Eman ended their meeting with the sentiment to continue inspiring others with the vision of his father and his uncle “that one person can make a difference, and every person should try”. □





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*Tenth Anniversary celebration for a loving couple*

# Katherine & Jeff Gerber renew vows at sunset



**HYATT REGENCY, ARUBA-** A very special anniversary took place on March 19, 2009 at the prestigious Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort. A few weeks back, Bella Aruba Photography received an email for a photo shoot from Jeff Gerber who wanted to surprise his wife with photos. When questioned what they were celebrating, Jeff answered back with “We are celebrating our tenth anniversary and due to severe medical issues, I may not be around for many years. Therefore, I want to give this as a present to my wife”. Bella Aruba asked if he wanted to surprise her further with a renewal of vows and the day was planned as a surprise to

his lovely wife Katherine. Katherine & Jeff are Christians and were married June 6, 1998. The lovebirds met in Houston, Texas via mutual friends. Their love blossomed and Jeff followed her up to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. They now reside as a family in Katy, Texas. They have 3 precious children; Alexis (6 yrs old), Lauren (4 yrs old), and Allison (almost 2). Jeff was diagnosed with grade 4 brain cancer and has been through many weeks of radiation and will continue on chemotherapy indefinitely. With their strong faith in God he believes that the love for each other will help the healing process.



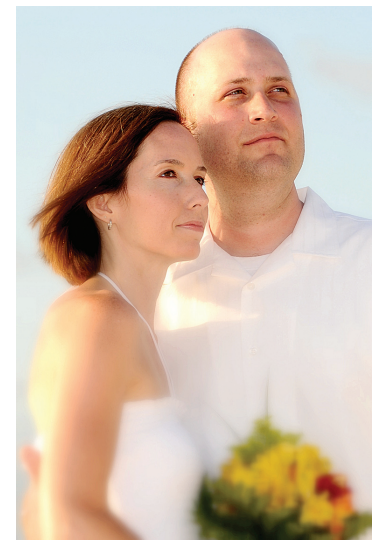
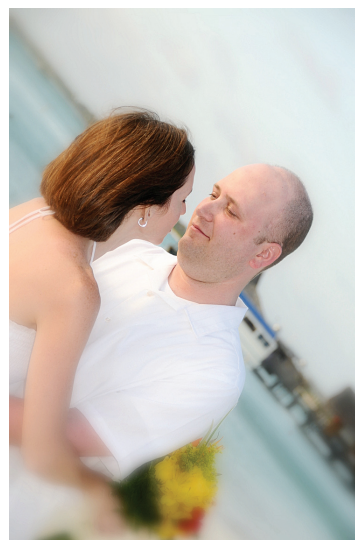
The renewal of vows took place on Hyatt’s Palm Beach with Reverend Robert Gibson who delivered a touching romantic sermon. Katherine and Jeff vowed their love to one another and sent tears to all around who heard their loving words. The sunset was amazing while they glared into each others eyes and never let go of one another. Bella Aruba Photography captured the precious moments as the sunset behind the horizon



and the couple toasted to champagne. Following the photo shoot Katherine & Jeff had a romantic dinner at the Hyatt’s exclusive ‘Pampered in Paradise’ dinner along the

beach. “May God Bless the both of you”, Angela Munzenhofer and Robert Gibson

*Photos by Angela Munzenhofer*





First time in Aruba

# A SOLAR CAR ON THE PALO MARGA RACE TRACK

HAC, "Think Green" Team and Momentum Team very active the last days!



SAN NICOLAS – Recently, for the first time in history of Aruba, that an energy powered solar car ran on the Palo Marga race tracks in front of a huge

audience.

This car which is made from Solar panels, the kind that were used on the satellites so they can reach speeds up to 135km

per hour and Saturday this was tested and the car reached the finish line in 30.59 seconds driving at 75km per hour. At the PaloMarga track the

people had the opportunity to see the Solar Car from up close and were also able to ask the team questions about the car and take pictures with the car "Momentum". Leader of the AVP. Mr. Mike Eman was present as well as the group leader of the HAC, the AVP's youth organization, Silvia Gildhorn. Joseph Belter was behind the wheel of Momentum and he had the opportunity to be the first to drive a SOLAR car on the Palo marga Drag strip.

It must be said that this was a very special attraction for the public attending Saturday night's Drag Races. Momentum, the Solar car

will be driving again soon but this time on the Aruban roads. On Wednesday it will be leaving from SOUL CITY in San Nicolas at 12 noon, will pass The Renaissance Hotel and will take a right right before the gas station on the boulevard and will end up at Cas Di Partido AVP in the Avenida Alo Tromp. The car will be on exhibit all day long for the Aruban public to enjoy on our National Day!

The "Think Green" team of the AVP together with HAC would like to hereby invite one and all to come and observe the Solar Car, a first in ARUBA and enjoy the activities of our National Day! □

ATA takes press members on VIP tour

## Colombian Press dine with the fish at the Buccaneer



NOORD – The management of The Buccaneer Restaurant had the pleasure of welcoming members of the media from Colombia. Joining them for diner on the outdoor deck of the restaurant were the Director of Cromos Magazine Jairo Dueñas and his crew Monica Moreno, Victor Gonzalebril, Annelie Franke

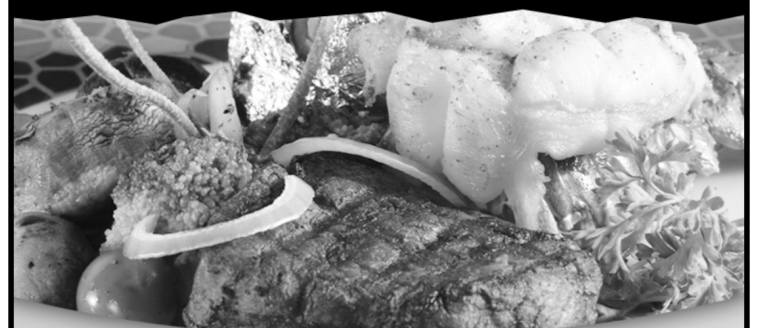
de Vergarra and former beauty Queen Maria Escobar. Cromos Colombia is the # 1 magazine in Colombia and has a circulation of 170,000 copies.

Also as a special treat, media members from Caracol TV Orlando Ramirez and Gina Lopez Quijano were present. Caracol TV, with its 34-year

experience on television production, is the leading broadcaster in Colombia. Accompanying the group was the Aruba Tourism Authority Special Events Director Amayra Boekhoudt and Public Relations Officer Maritza Tromp Lacle. □

Photos by Julia Renfro

## FRIDAYS SPECIAL!



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(up to 10 years old)

...FRESH FISH CAUGHT DAILY BY THE OWNER HIMSELF.

A long tradition of serving the finest  
**Seafood & Steaks**  
for over 20 years!



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For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.  
www.driftwoodaruba.com

\* Not valid with any other promotion.



**NOTICE:**

Casino chips with old Aruba Marriott Sail Boat Logo can be cashed out at the Casino Cage until July 1, 2009.

No chip exchange is possible after July 1, 2009

## National Anthem & Flag Day event a success at the Numismatic Museum



ORANJESTAD – On Wednesday, March 18th, the Numismatic Museum was open from 10 am to 4 pm with a unique display of Aruba-Antillias coins with other coins from all over the world. On November 24th of 1955, is located on Weststraat just behind the Bus Station next to the Royal Plaza Mall. Edjean Semeleer gave a beautiful presentation of Aruba's National anthem.



Odor was digging in his flower garden when he found two old coins. One of them was a one penny of 1790 and one half-penny of 1788, both of them where "Tradesmen" copper Irish tokens.

These coins circulated in this region in a time when colonists, traders, merchants and even pirates traveled these Caribbean seas. These two coins he found sparked

Mario's idea of starting to collect coins and paper money.

The Aruba Numismatic Museum was established on November 13, 1981 and lodges the private collection of Mr. Odor and is the first Numismatic museum established on Aruba.

The museum contains over 40.000 different pieces covering over 400 countries.

This fantastic collection contains approximately over 110 different collection on their own, for example: primitive, strange, zoo, proof, counter stamp, over struck, mini, chop-coins, errors, leprosarium, gold, ration, F.A.O. dollars & crowns, commemoratives, center holed, scalloped, square, wooden-coins, tokens, medals, food-coupons en much more. □

## Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at [info@buccaneeraruba.com](mailto:info@buccaneeraruba.com) or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



### Ocean view Westpunt

Brand new beautiful 4BR/2BT home located on the only hill in Westpunt Noord, Called Seroe Pella. Living and dining upstairs with amazing views and sleeping downstairs. You'll also find an extra guesthouse with its own bathroom. Huge pool (50m2) and spectacular ocean view!

**\$689.000**

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**SIGFRIED FRASER**  
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HELDER-  
WERLEMAN**  
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**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**



**JACINTHA  
KOCK  
LOEFSTOK**  
January 11th, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**ALLA  
FISHBEYN**  
January 15th, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**PREMEHANDERPERSAD  
NAIDJNATH  
MISIER**  
February 21st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**



**LORENZO  
PADULLA**  
February 21st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**MAREK T.  
ZAWADZKI**  
February 22st, 2009



Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
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## \$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

- **Sundown Special**, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

\*Kids Eat Free \*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

**Monday** Seafood Sampler

**Tuesday** Bravo Italiano

**Wednesday** An island favorite - BBQ night

**Thursday** Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

**Friday** International Seafood Festival

**Saturday** Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

**LagunaRestaurantAruba.com**

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**Radisson**  
ARUBA  
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

# Loyal visitors honored at Playa Linda Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at Playa Linda Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years.

Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual

vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Playa Linda Resort they call their home away from home.



Cynthee & Steve Kerlin, Adam Kerlin and also John & Audrey Diana were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 24 years.

On picture Mr. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Ivette from the Playa Linda Resort





## Taqa pays Marubeni US\$320m for Carib assets

Taqa and Marubeni have closed the joint venture deal that gives the United Arab Emirates company a stake in the Caribbean energy market, for US\$320 million.

Taqa now owns 40 per cent of Jamaica Public Service Company in equal partnership with Marubeni Caribbean, which also now owns 40 per cent while the Jamaican government retains its minority interest of 20 per cent.

Taqa said its 40 per cent of JPS, which also operates six hydro-electric plants, expands its downstream business into sustainable energy source.

Taqa, which disclosed the value of the deal in a statement posted on its website dated Sunday, did not offer a breakdown of the price paid for its half of Marubeni's Caribbean holdings under the 50:50 partnership struck by the two companies.

The deal covers four electricity transmission and distribution businesses in Jamaica, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Curaçao.

### Generation capacity

The businesses have a combined generation capacity of 2,300 MW.

Japanese company Marubeni acquired pieces of the businesses in 2007 as follows: Grand Bahama Power Company in Grand Bahama - 55.4 per cent equity

Jamaica Public Service Company which owns and operates 10 generating facilities, including six hydroelectric plants - 80 per cent equity.

PowerGen, an independent power producer that supplies 80 per cent of total electricity demand in Trinidad & Tobago - 39 per cent equity.

Curaçao Utilities Company N.V. which supplies electricity, steam and water to the Island Refinery operated by Petroleos de Venezuela, SA - 25.5 per cent equity.

### Operational role

Taqa's role is operational, with its 50 per cent interest represented at the board level at each facility and holding key management positions.

Taqa said the partnership expands its power assets to 11,650 MW from 10,500 MW; and extends the company's energy value chain to power transmission and distribution.

"The closing of the transaction marks an important milestone in Taqa's global operations," said Peter Barker-Homek, chief

executive officer of Taqa, in a company statement.

"This transaction demonstrates our strategic objective to deliver profitable growth in new and existing markets."

### First step

This deal, Barker-Homek indicated, is just the first step in Taqa's plan to broaden its footprint in the Caribbean, through "acquisitions that offer stable cash flows", he said.

"The joint venture with Marubeni enhances our existing diversified energy portfolio and

will act as a platform to explore multiple opportunities through long-term investment in the region."

This year, the company has budgeted capital expenditures of US\$300 million to US\$500 million, Reuters reported, quoting Barker-Homek, but says the final spend is dependent on the movements in crude oil prices.

Taqa's principal activities include power generation, water desalination and oil and gas production and storage. □



Jamaica Public Service Company Limited. - File



**RENAISSANCE**  
RESORT

# Havana Dance



## Special Dinner & Show package at \$89 per person

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**Bring this ad for a 15% discount, only valid at the Crystal Theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, open from 2 to 9, Monday through Saturday.**

This special is NOT valid in combination with any other specials and cannot be purchased at any other vendor than the Box Office of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino.

The hottest Cuban Show on the island

The biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana

\$49

per person

Children under 12 pay \$25

Showtime: Tuesday through Saturday at 9 p.m.

Tickets available at Box Office, Lobby Concierge desk of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. De Palm Tours, Pelican, Red Sail Sports activity desks at your hotels

For more information call 583 6000 ext. 6115 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357





*Beachside Dining in the 'just right' atmosphere*

## Matthew's gets it right

EAGLE BEACH – Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operate Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beach-side restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on

your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you. Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will


keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



**Opening Hours**  
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

**Daily Happy Hours**  
Noon - 1:00pm  
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)  
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*The trendiest coffees on Aruba*

## Segafredo at South Beach Centre

PALM BEACH – Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving success from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the Grand Opening Specials below, they are made just for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning espressos and cappuchinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.



**Grand Opening Specials**

**BUY ANY BREAKFAST GET ONE FREE**

**HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY**

**BUY ANY SPECIAL COFFEE GET ONE FREE**

6pm - 8pm



Located at the South Beach Mall in Palm Beach #55 | Open Daily from 6am to 10pm | Tel: 743-8897 - 586-7483

*Bloody Oyster Cocktails that will blow your mind...*

## Have you every seen a mermaid? Come to Moby Dick's

For a great and unique lunch experience, you definitely have to go to Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. This is the only place on the island to savor the legendary Bloody Oyster - the ultimate delicacy only known by deep sea connoisseurs who take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper and Celery. Moby Dick's weekly lunch specials include the Famed Fish & Chips (Beer battered grouper fillet with malt vinegar & chips for only \$11.95.)

The Amazing Angus Wrap and other Memorable Sandwiches are absolutely delicious just as their dearly loved desserts. The inconceivable cocktails are even more reasons to visit this great place. A must visit lunch appointment for great value, amazing décor, picture perfect outdoor terrace, across the street from the High-Rise hotels at the popular Paseo Herencia Mall.



**Open Every Day 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More information and Reservations Call: 586 8333**

mobydicksaruba@gmail.com



**ARUBA**

## Hard Rock Cafe is "over the top" for fun, food and reviving great memories

The official opening of **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** in January had all the glitz and glamour of any Hollywood carpet event, and the newest addition to this world famous brand of casual eateries is an entertaining journey through musical history, as well as offering a guaranteed great meal at a very reasonable price. Music is so much a part of our lives, often interwoven with the landmark moments; the first kiss, a marriage proposal, the first dance as man and wife. How many times have you heard or said, "Honey, they are playing our song!" Hard Rock has all those great

songs and videos in their play list, enveloping patrons in a world of music that brings back those special memories of moments that changed one's life. Founded by Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton in 1971 and located right next door to Eric Clapton's recording studio in London, the first **Hard Rock Cafe** became an instant hit with those that loved a good "old-fashioned American hamburger" and started a legend, resulting in one of the largest and most successful leisure franchises existing today. Hard Rock's remarkable music memorabilia collection began with a red fender given

## Aruba's Flavour



the founders by Eric Clapton, to mark his special table where he came to dine on a daily basis. Not to be outdone, other great names such as The Who followed his example; eventually leading to the assortment of music memorabilia that includes anything from a lock of hair to a five-ton psychedelic bus. In **Aruba** you find no buses, but a fascinating collection of instruments, posters, wild and wicked costumes and

other miscellaneous items, many of them autographed by the legendary performers they commemorate. Dozens of bits of memorabilia and high definition plasma screens create the music world ambiance that defines **Hard Rock Cafe**, as well as their diverse menu of fresh fajitas, authentic western barbecue, and of course, their famous certified Angus beef burgers, huge and juicy, the way a burger was meant to be.

Owners of the **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** are particularly proud of the double bar that serves both inside and out; a stunning canopied terrace allows them to take full advantage of Aruba's famous tropical breezes and agreeable climate. Opening night featured The Wailers, the famous band that made their name with Bob Marley, direct from Jamaica. The appearance of such noted groups and live rock tributes are a trademark of **Hard Rock Cafés** around the world. **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** is located in the South Beach Mall across from the Radisson Resort and open seven days a week, from 10:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and until 2:00 AM on the weekends. It is comforting to know there is a great place to go for late night munching and fun times within an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach Resorts offering not only quality food and beverage at reasonable prices, but a musical trip down **Memory Lane!**



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MONDAY-THURSDAY 7 P.M.  
\$25 BUY-IN \$2,500 GUARANTEE  
FRIDAY \$50 BUY-IN \$4,000 GUARANTEE  
SATURDAY \$10 BUY-IN \$1,500 GUARANTEE  
SUNDAY FREE ROLL (NO ENTRY FEE) @ 5 P.M.  
\$2,000 GUARANTEE  
(tournaments subject to change per management criteria)

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**Dealer Stands on Soft 17**  
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SLOTS (ALL TICKET IN- TICKET OUT)  
DOUBLE POINTS 9 A.M. – 12 P.M. & 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.

VIP PLAYERS CLUB

PLAY SLOTS DURING YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH  
AND RECEIVE 200 FREE SLOT POINTS  
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## Exclusive dining for all to experience Dining in Unique Surroundings

WESTPOINT – Located on the lush grounds of Tierra del Sol is Ventanas del Mar Restaurant. The plush surroundings offer the perfect backdrop for a romantic dinner outside in the cool evening breeze, or a refreshing lunch in the afternoon shade. Ventanas del Mar's location is absolutely unique on the island; words simply can

not describe it. Contrary to popular belief, Tierra del Sol is open to the public. Don't be scared by the security gate, you will find you are more than welcome for lunch or dinner. Get away from the busy beaches for a day and come and soak up the rest and tranquility that only Ventanas del Mar can offer you.



Executive Chef Jim Rooseman has taken the level of cuisine to a whole new level, bringing you the most exquisite dishes and original flavors, in a variety that actually cannot be described except by saying the fare is simply delicious.

The excellently trained staff awaits your every need, whether you want advice on which wine to choose from the vast wine vault, or anything else that comes to mind. Consider yourself cordially invited for lunch and/or dinner!

**For more information call 586 0879 or ask your concierge**





# Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently at Marriott Surf Club vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here,

are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Marriott Surf Club they call their home away

from home. Ann & August Moronese and also Dan & Bernie Roundfield were honored as Distinguished Visitors after visiting Aruba for 17 years.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also staff from the Marriott Surf Club. □



**Cleo's**  
Sports Bar & Grill

Open daily 6pm to 2am  
with Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm



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CASINO  
ARUBA  
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*Celebrating 25 years as Aruba's place to play!*

## FREE Shirt Friday!

Get a FREE Alhambra T-Shirt when  
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Alhambra cap may be substituted for t-shirt.

**TOMORROW**

Don't miss Super Bingo Saturday!  
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# Programme to boost skills of pupils on BES islands

THE HAGUE--Foundation Based Education (FBE) Cycle Two pupils on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be tested in May/June this year on their arithmetic and language skills so the Dutch Government can implement a programme aimed at improving these skills next school year.

Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations

Ank Bijleveld-Schouten announced this in a recent letter to the Second Chamber. The tests will precede a programme for pupils to catch up on language and arithmetic skills in the highest groups of Cycle Two of FBE. The intention is to start this programme at the beginning of the school year 2009/2010.

The process to make school

books available has been started so pupils can use these at the start of the new school year, announced Bijleveld-Schouten, who also wrote the letter on behalf of Dutch Minister of Education Ronald Plasterk.

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science OCW will take over complete responsibility for education on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba at the start of the school year 2010/2011.

The catching up programme for FBE and the distribution of school books and other educational material, including material facilities such as school buses, were high priority. Another high priority was the solving of urgent problems relating to school buildings.

The Ministry of OCW planned to start executing the plan in the first quarter of 2009 after consultation with the Island Governments. The Association of Dutch Municipalities VNG was assisting to screen the

education departments on the three islands, also referred to as the BES.

The plan detailed a number of general actions in the area of education. An improvement trajectory will be drawn up for every school, professionalism of teachers will be improved, as well as the professionalism of school managements and boards, and better facilities will be realised for pupils that need extra care.

The Dutch Government was making available some 12 million euros for 2009 and 2010 to invest in education on the BES islands, which will become a so-called "public entity" of the Netherlands in the near future. Funds from the budget of Kingdom Relations will be transferred to the education budget of OCW.

Bijleveld-Schouten had written the letter to the Second Chamber on March 17, 2009, in response to Parliament's request for information on investments that were needed to tackle

the problems in education on the BES islands. The Dutch Inspection of Education pointed out these problems during a visit to the islands last year.

The Inspection did not paint a very pretty picture of the state of education on the three islands. Primary schools on Bonaire and St. Eustatius scored insufficient. Only on Saba, primary education was considered to be at an acceptable level. The supply of education material, the differentiation and the counselling of pupils was deemed insufficient. The inspectors found that pupils had a poor command of the Dutch language.

The Dutch Inspection of Public Housing, Physical Planning and Environment VROM stumbled on asbestos in roofs of schools on the BES islands.

As a result of these findings, the Dutch Government will invest in better housing for schools to create a safer and healthier environment for pupils. □

## NEC to upgrade Pan-American cable for eleven telcos

Japan's NEC Corporation has signed a contract with a purchaser consortium of eleven telecoms carriers for upgrading the Pan-American Cable System, which connects the west coast of South America and the Caribbean through Panama. The eleven purchasers are: AT&T (US), Telmex (Mexico), CANTV (Venezuela), Cable & Wireless Panama, Embratel (Brazil), Ecuador's Corporacion Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (CNT), Entel Chile, Telefonica Colombia, SETAR (Aruba), Antelecom and Cable Andino. The Pan-American Cable System was first installed in 1999, and the upgrade will give a boost to regional capacities of multiple 10Gbps wavelengths. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. □

## Mott MacDonald brings Caribbean renewables project to financial close

Mott MacDonald's role as Lender's Technical Adviser on a major renewable energy project on the Caribbean Island of Bonaire has come to fruition as the project has reached financial close.

Mott MacDonald was commissioned by Rabobank last year to provide due diligence to identify any key risks during construction and operation of the project. In addition, Mott MacDonald's team was required to propose, in conjunction with the project team, suitable actions for mitigating any risks identified.

This hybrid renewables project comprises a wind-diesel system which is to be the sole electricity supplier of the Island of Bonaire under a 15 year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The system includes 12 Enercon E-44 wind turbines providing an output of 10 MW and five MAN diesel generating units giving 14 MW of electricity to be controlled by a Power Management System. Initially the diesel engines will use heavy fuel oil but they have been designed to offer the option to switch to biodiesel in the future to help fulfil the aim of providing the Island of Bonaire with 100% renewable energy. The project was developed by Evelop, which will also be the owner and operator of the plant. □

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# Wall St. surges on economy, Best Buy optimism

**By Edward Krudy**  
NEW YORK (Reuters) — Stocks rose for a second straight day on Thursday on continued optimism the U.S. recession may be easing, as fourth-quarter economic data and weekly jobless claims that were in line with expectations kept the focus on positive signs earlier in the week. Standouts in the broad run-up included shares of Best Buy (BBY.N), up 12 percent to \$37.49 after the electronics retailer's quarterly profit topped estimates and its yearly outlook boosted optimism about consumer spending.

Leading discount retailer Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N) was among the top boosts on the Dow, rising more than 2 percent to \$52.80, while the S&P retail index (.RLX) gained nearly 5 percent. Big cap technology stocks pushed the Nasdaq into positive territory for the year, with Apple Inc (AAPL.O) leading the charge, up 2.7 percent to \$109.39. Some analysts say the technology sector will be among those leading an up-turn in the economy. "We have had some positive news in the economy in

terms of the housing sector," said Craig Hester, CEO of Hester Capital Management in Austin, Texas, referring to data on Wednesday showing a rebound in new home sales. "Sentiment has noticeably improved from where it was. I don't think in my career I'd ever heard people have the fear in their voices that I was hearing." Recent better-than-expected housing and retail sales data has given rise to hopes that the recession-stricken economy is starting to show signs of life. The Dow Jones industrial



U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner appears on a television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, March 26, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

average (.DJI) jumped 160.65 points, or 2.07 percent, to 7,910.46. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) spiked 17.22 points, or 2.12 percent, to 831.10. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) surged 47.67 points, or 3.12 percent, to 1,576.62. At the current pace, the S&P 500 could have its biggest monthly gain in 22 years, as stocks extend a three-week rally off 12-year lows. Shares of natural resources companies rose along with higher commodity prices on Thursday. Shares of steel maker Nucor (NUE.N) rose nearly 5 percent to \$41.03 and U.S. Steel Corp (X.N) was up 5.5 percent to \$24.76. Investors were relieved to see fair demand for \$24 billion of

U.S. debt offered after a poor auction a day earlier raised fears the government would have trouble funding its plans to help the economy recover. Shares of banks pared losses after the auction, with JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) down 1 percent to \$28.27, having fallen as low as \$27.65, while the KBW bank index (.BKX) fell 0.1 percent. Government data showed the U.S. economy contracted slightly less than expected in the fourth quarter, although corporate profits in the same quarter plunged by the biggest margin since 1994. The number of workers collecting state unemployment benefits rose to a record high in the latest week. □

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# Crude closes above \$54 for first time this year

By CHRIS KAHN,  
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK – Oil prices hit a new high for the year Thursday and retail gasoline rose above \$2 per gallon for the first time since November as investors wagered that there would be a new run on crude stocks.

Benchmark crude for May delivery rose \$1.58 to settle at \$54.34 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In London, Brent prices rose \$1.71 to settle at \$53.46 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Gas prices rose 2.3 cents a gallon overnight to a new national average of \$2.009 per gallon, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. Pump prices are 10.9 cents higher than a month ago, but \$1.252 lower than the same period last year.

Gas prices last hit \$2 on Nov. 20.

Analysts have struggled to explain the recent surge in energy prices, especially as reports continue to pour out from the federal government showing that the U.S. economy is shrinking and its oil inventories are bloated with surplus crude.

Investors seem to have shrugged off the government data and have been bidding up prices on the expectation of a future shortage of crude oil, analysts said.

Stephen Schork, an analyst and trader, said a lot of investors are getting swept into a new run on oil stocks even though there is little to support rising prices.

“With global demand in the doldrums and the world swimming in oil, the current price run in oil is an aberration,” Schork said in his daily oil report. “We do not think it will last ... in a logical world.”

Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service, said the traders are jumping to oil now, but it won't be like last year.

“This is not the beginning of the next great oil price shock,” Kloza said.

The price of gasoline, however, is traveling along more traditional lines.

Gas prices usually increase in the spring as refiners slow down production to get ready for a summer gas blends, and gas is actually cheaper now than it was at the same point in the previous four years. Kloza said the recession will keep prices low as manufacturers retrench

and millions of laid off people no longer commute to work.

“We're on the trajectory where prices will top out between \$2 and \$2.25 a gallon in most markets,” he said.

On Thursday, the federal government said the economy shrank at a 6.3 percent pace at the end of 2008, the worst showing in a quarter-century. And first-time claims for unemployment benefits last week rose to a seasonally adjusted 652,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 644,000.

The total number of people claiming benefits jumped to 5.56 million, higher than economists' projections of 5.48 million, and a ninth straight record-high.

Meanwhile, the Energy Information Administration said that U.S. stores of natural gas rose last week despite expectations for a drop, and stockpiles remained well above historical levels.

Heavy industry, which has slashed spending and cut its work force, is a major consumer of natural gas.

Natural gas inventories held in underground storage in the lower 48 states rose by 3 billion cubic feet to about 1.65 trillion cubic feet for the week ended March 20, the report said. Analysts had expected a draw of between 5 billion to 10 billion cubic feet, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

OPEC countries have been trying for several months to squeeze off crude production in hopes of driving up oil prices. Members want to cut production by 4.2 million barrels per day.

Tanker tracker Oil Movements reported Thursday that OPEC is getting closer to its goal. Shipments from members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are expected to drop another 430,000 barrels per day for the four-week period ended April 4, Oil Movements reported.

U.S. inventories continue to expand, but many analysts are forecasting tight supplies in the future as economies stabilize, and the world works off its surplus of crude.

A plunge in oil exploration will make it even tougher to quench the world's appetite for petroleum in the future, experts said.

“But that's still several years away,” said Andrew Lipow, president of Lipow Oil

Associates. By cutting so much production, OPEC and other oil producers have the ability to meet even a huge jump in demand, he said.

Christoffer Moltke-Leth, head of sales trading at Saxo Capital Markets in Singapore, predicted that oil will be capped around \$55 a barrel, and could fall as low as \$43 a barrel, over the next two weeks if other countries release more gloomy economic data as expected.

Japan, which said exports plunged by nearly half in February, will release a quarterly business sentiment survey called the “tankan” next Wednesday that experts say is likely to be quite gloomy.

“Japan is the world's third-largest oil consumer, and the



A Kuwaiti employee looks at the al-Rawdatain oil field, 2005. OPEC member Kuwait posted 20.2 billion dinars (69.6 billion dollars) in revenues during the first 11 months of the fiscal year ending on March 31.

(AFP/File/Yasser al-Zayyat)

tankan is expected to drop to a 30-year low,” Moltke-Leth said. “I see more demand destruction down the way.” □



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## What if women ran the world?

By Mark Lange

San Francisco – It is getting harder to escape the sense that most of the trouble in the world – whether it's coming out of the Senate, a mortgage lender, or a tank turret – can be traced to one overriding problem: too many men steering. Had our economic, domestic, and foreign policy been more informed by women, we might be enjoying a safer ride.

Doubt it? Here's a test. Would any of the women you admire have set up a healthcare system as byzantine, costly, and underperforming as America's? Or a financial system where mortgage lenders don't have to care about being paid back? Or a bailout that spends \$1 trillion in public money to subsidize the purchase of junk debt from the same geniuses that generated it?

It may be time for guys to hand over the keys, ask for directions, and sit (quietly, please) in the back seat for a while.

Forget gender politics; just look at results. Our computer-based fantasy financial instruments have erased perhaps 45 percent of the world's wealth. We've waged two wars at the same time for six years at a fully loaded cost in the trillions. And we've managed the simultaneous implosion of what amounts to most of the male industrial complex, from banks to newspapers to automakers.

Women's effectiveness as decisionmakers is well documented, even if it isn't entirely accepted by either gender.

An MIT study of female leaders running village councils in India found that by objective measures (building better wells, taking fewer bribes) women ran their villages better. American women are about to eclipse men in sheer payroll numbers – and they're now majority owners of nearly half of the private companies in the country. Yet somehow the average working woman still devotes much more time to child care and housework.

What's clear is that, on average, men overestimate their IQ while women underestimate theirs. And that may be a clue, in terms of effectiveness: While decisiveness and risk-taking matter, hubris (too often male) creates problems. Humility and collaboration (more often female) solve them. What explains the difference?

It could simply be a matter of emotional need, reinforced by generations of gender stereotyping. Seeking competition and challenge, guys do tend to cast things in shades of conflict: defaulting to a win/lose, right ("my") position versus wrong ("yours"). On this point, scientists, who are mostly men, disagree. But there's no doubt that social stability is compromised by masculine habits such as hostile takeovers, and paying enormous retention bonuses to men who've driven a business into the ground and have already left.

The difference could be evolutionary. Primordial hunters (men) had to make rapid decisions and act on them, right or wrong, but quickly. Chase that bunny! Club that rival! Run away! Gatherers (women), meanwhile, needed an awareness of the larger context – knowing which berry bushes would ripen when, how to keep the kids from clonking each other with rocks, and generally holding the tribe together and getting things done.

Or, in a world where our reverence for stature remains primitive, it's possible women just have to be more creative, collaborative, and clever when they average five inches shorter and 27 pounds lighter than men. □

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## What's Behind the Geithner Debate?

Will Marshall

Progressives, who have so far marched in rare lockstep behind President Obama, are falling out over Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner's plan to get credit flowing again. At issue are conflicting visions of exactly what kind of economy should emerge on the other side of today's crisis.

Pundits and columnists traffic in certitudes, but the rest of us can be forgiven for not knowing whether the Geithner plan will actually work. We're in terra incognita here, and analogies to the Great Crash of 1929, or more recent banking crises in Japan and Sweden, may be of limited utility. Amid all the complexity and uncertainty, the debate over Geithner's proposal is a kind of ideological ink-blot test.

Some liberal critics charge that it is nothing more than a continuation of the Bush-Paulson policy of propping up failed banks and financial institutions until the crisis somehow resolves itself. They question whether Geithner, a former governor of the New York Federal Reserve, is capable of administering sufficiently harsh medicine to his former peers in the realm of high finance. Many conservatives, relieved by the voters of primary responsibility for fixing the mess, are hoping to exploit populist anger over the massive wealth transfer from taxpayers to Wall Street.

The essence of Geithner's plan is to reanimate the market for the securitized mortgages and other loans that no one wants to buy now. Until banks can take these toxic assets off their books, they won't be able to resume lending. Geithner proposes to use what's left of the TARP (Troubled Assets Relief Fund) money to entice private actors, such as hedge funds, to buy the assets.

The basic idea here is that these private money-managers will do a better job of pricing the assets than the government ever could. If the spoiled assets regain their value, these private buyers win--but so do taxpayers, who would no longer have to foot the whole bill for the failures of the past.

Conversely, if the assets do not regain their value, then everybody loses. Well, almost everybody. In order to persuade private buyers to take the plunge into the toxic pool, the Geithner plan insures them against downside risk.

Despite their admiration of Obama, many liberals are unhappy with this arrangement. They decry the plan as yet another subsidy to the very people whose reckless risk-taking in search of outsized profits got us into this mess. They complain that Geithner's plan is, at best, a palliative that doesn't address the underlying cause of seized-up credit

markets -- namely, the fact that major U.S. banks are, for all practical purposes, insolvent. Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard law professor who heads the panel Congress set up to oversee TARP, likens the Geithner plan to an IV drip for "zombie banks."

Putting the big banks on life support, in this view, merely prolongs the agony and could lead to a long period of Japanese-style stagnation. Better to follow the sterner Swedish model: Nationalize insolvent banks, wipe out equity holders, and return a smaller number of healthy banks with clean balance sheets to private hands.

But nationalization could wind up costing taxpayers a fortune, while also causing collateral damage to the secondary market for securities backed by mortgages in other loans. Congress' hot-headed reaction to the AIG bonus scandal did little to inspire confidence in the federal government's ability to manage financial companies. Furthermore, Obama's economic team seems willing to bet that bank assets are worth more than today's depressed market prices suggest.

In short, Obama and Geithner are working to restore the financial sector as it existed roughly a decade ago, before the frenzied run-up in real estate prices and the bubble in securitized loans. But as the president has said, the regulatory minimalism of the Bush years must be replaced with a new regime that extends oversight to hedge funds and derivatives and ensures that we never again face the necessity of bailing out companies that are too big or too interlaced to fail. The administration's critics envision a more fundamental restructuring: a dramatic shrinking of the financial-services sector; an end to easy credit; a tight corset around any lending practices that might smack of seduction or predation; the permanent intrusion of government into matters of firm strategy and compensation; and, somewhat ironically, a return to the old, black-and-white days when conservative bankers took modest risks for modest profits.

Given the unknowns about the real value of bank assets - and the palpable financial and political risks of a government takeover of big chunks of the U.S. financial sector - President Obama and Geithner have the better argument. The strong vote of confidence they received from the stock markets this week could just be a blip, but it could also signal a break in the pessimism that has dampened investors' animal spirits since the crisis began last fall.

Progressives ought to give the Obama-Geithner plan a chance to work, and leave talk of a more radical reordering of American capitalism for another day. □



# Officials: Madonna trying to adopt Malawian child

By RAPHAEL TENTHANI,  
Associated Press Writer  
BLANTYRE, Malawi — Madonna is planning to adopt a second child from Malawi, officials said Thursday, but questions have already been raised over whether the newly divorced pop star will face obstacles because of her single mom status.

An official at the Malawi welfare department said the pop star had filed adoption papers in the southern African country. Another person in Malawi close to the case said Madonna would be there this weekend and a court could hear her adoption case as soon as Monday.

A U.S. government official confirmed that an adoption bid by Madonna, an American, was under way.

They all spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject.

Madonna spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg in New York would not comment.

Years ago, the singer was accused of using her celebrity status to circumvent Malawian adoptions laws when she adopted her son David —

allegations she denies. That adoption became final in 2008.

Now there are concerns that rules again will be broken for the newly divorced Madonna as Malawi also does not approve adoptions for single or divorced parents.

However, the Malawi welfare official said each case is considered on its merit.

Malawian law is fuzzy on foreign adoptions. Regulations stipulate only that prospective parents undergo an 18- to 24-month assessment period in Malawi, a rule already bent when Madonna was allowed to take David to London.

Madonna met David in October 2006 at a Malawian orphanage. His mother had died and his father was unable to care for him. She and her then-husband, British filmmaker Guy Ritchie, took David to their London home but it took two years for the adoption to become official.

The adoption was a trying process for the singer, who said the criticism hurt. Some children's advocacy groups accused her of breaking up a family. They claimed the

child, who is now 3, should have remained in Malawi and the star should have instead offered to support his father.

Rumors that Madonna wanted to adopt a girl from Malawi have been circulating for some time. But the first official hint came from the star herself last week.

In an interview in Malawi's leading daily The Nation, the singer said she was considering another adoption but would only do it if she had "the support of the Malawian people and government."

Before David's adoption was finalized in May last year, a Malawi welfare official paid the family two home visits and wrote in a report that Madonna was a "perfect mum."

If the adoption goes through, the 50-year-old singer would become a single mother of four. She also has an 8-year-old son, Rocco, with Ritchie and a 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes, from a previous relationship.

Madonna first traveled to Malawi in 2006 while doing charity work and filming a documentary on the devastating poverty and



**FILE \*\*** Madonna holds David Banda in her arms, in this April 19, 2007, file photo at Consol Homes, a day care center that she is funding in the village of Masekese, Malawi. Officials say Madonna is to travel to Malawi to try to adopt a second child from the impoverished African country. An official at the Malawi welfare department said Thursday, March 26, 2009 that the pop star has filed adoption papers.

(AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo, File)

AIDS crisis there. Besides releasing her documentary "I Am Because We Are," she is also establishing a school for girls there.

Malawi is among the poorest countries in the world. Just over 14 percent of the country's 12 million people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and an estimated 1 million children have been orphaned.

In an interview last year,

Madonna said she planned to visit Malawi this month with all of her children, but it is unclear whether Madonna's children will accompany her on this trip.

She last visited Malawi a year ago, when she brought David and Lourdes with her. The star and her entourage spent their time visiting projects for street children and orphanages, and opening a new day care center funded by her charity. □

## Bob Barker returns to 'The Price is Right'

By LORINDA TOLEDO,  
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Bob Barker returned to "The Price Is Right" — and this time he was the showcase.

After nearly two years in retirement, the 85-year-old former game show host was invited to come on down to "The Price Is Right" to promote his upcoming memoir, "Priceless Memories," due out April 6.

Barker on Wednesday once again stood on the set where he had worked for 35 years. As he walked the halls of the studio, old co-workers greeted Barker with broad smiles, seemingly as happy to have him back as he was to be there.

Dressed in a black suit with a hot pink shirt and matching tie, the silver-haired host appeared alongside successor Drew Carey near the finale of the show, which airs April 16, to present two prize showcases that were somewhat stretched to promote Barker's memoir.

One showcase, for example, featured a computer to order the book, a trip to New York City to buy a bundle of the books from the publisher, and a truck to haul them all back in.

"That general idea was in their script, but I shamelessly overacted on a lot of it," Barker said, laughing mischievously in his dressing room after the show.

All 300 members of the show's live studio audience also received a copy of the tome.

Most days, Barker said his retirement has been filled with various projects helping animals. He also keeps in shape by exercising with light weights and an elliptical machine.

"I have remarked that I better go back and start doing the show again to get a little rest," Barker said.

But despite his busy lifestyle, the veteran performer said he misses the excitement of "The Price is Right."

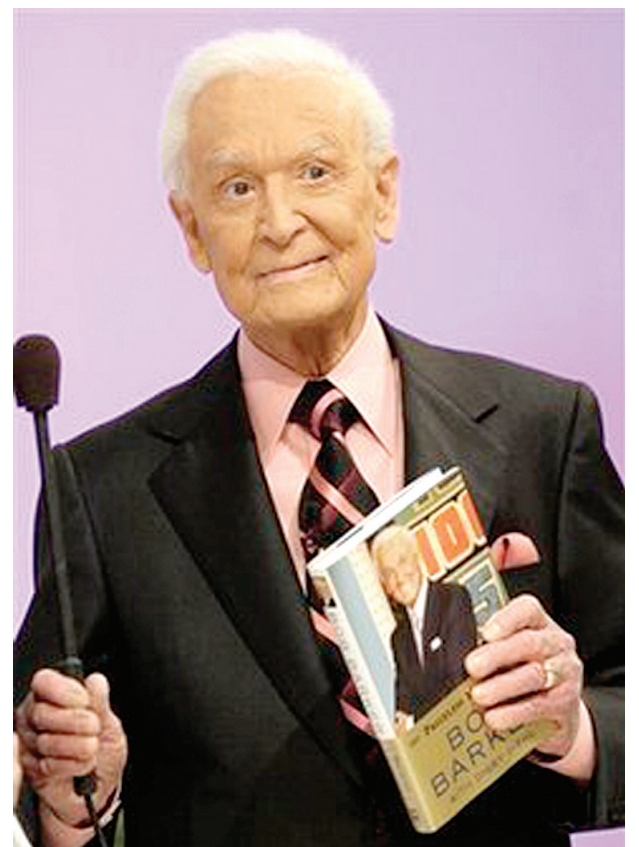
"I could never have done this show if I hadn't enjoyed it, and one of the things I enjoyed was the excitement with the audience, the fun with the audience, the responses of the audience," Barker said.

"I'd done audience participation my entire adult life."

Barker taped his last regular episode — his 6,586th — of the popular CBS game show in June 2007, retiring after five decades on national television.

Always the animal lover, Barker spends his free time with his dog, Jesse, and two rabbits, Mr. Rabbit and Honey Bunny. Proceeds from Barker's book will go to the DJ&T Foundation, which he founded in 1994 to subsidize the cost of spaying and neutering animals.

Asked at the end of the interview if there was anything else he'd like to add, Barker chuckled and said, just as he had for 35 years on network television: "Help control the pet population, have your pets spayed or neutered." □



Television icon Bob Barker returns for one show to the The Price is Right game show at the CBS Studio Center in Los Angeles on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Baker, the longtime host of the daily game show, who recently retired and passed the microphone off to Drew Carey, appeared Wednesday in order to promote his autobiography, 'Priceless Memories.' The episode will air on April 16.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)



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and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant **open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm** for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried,



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acter of the French cuisine was found in the provinces of France. People discovered the countryside and sampled the rich bourgeois and traditional cuisine of France. Rapidly, this authentic bourgeois cuisine became an example for cuisine styles all over the world.

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- Saumon Écossais avec Risotto** US\$ 31.50  
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Snow covers a seeping the sandbag dike as the Red River continues to rise along River Drive, Thursday, March 26, 2009, in Fargo, N.D.

*Associated Press*

## Fargo works to keep back rising river

DAVE KOLPACK

Associated Press Writers

FARGO, North Dakota (AP) — North Dakota's largest city moved to the brink of potentially disastrous flooding Thursday, with earlier optimism fading as officials predicted a river would reach a record-high crest of 41 feet by the weekend. The Red River in Fargo was almost 39 feet by midday Thursday and was expected to crest Saturday. Its record was 40.1 feet in 1897.

Thousands of volunteers who have been piling sandbags for days scrambled to add another foot to Fargo's dike protection against the river, and official briefings lost the jokes and quips that had broken the tension earlier in the week. Instead, Thursday's meeting opened with a prayer.

"We need all the help we can get," Mayor Dennis Walaker said.

President Barack Obama earlier this week declared the entire state of North Dakota a disaster area in response to widespread flooding.

Residents who live on the Canadian side of the Red River, in Manitoba, began evacuating homes this week as ice-clogged culverts, ice jams and the rising river threatened nearby sites. Canadian officials said about

850 people are on evacuation alert in southern Manitoba. At least 40 homes north of Winnipeg already have been evacuated.

Senior flood forecaster Alf Warkentin says possible ice jams in the city of Winnipeg could cause overland flooding. He said flooding could be a threat for at least another three weeks.

"We're in for probably the worst two weeks that this community has ever seen in its entire existence," said Steve Strang, a local mayor who has lived north of Winnipeg for over 20 years. Fargo, a city of 92,000, planned to distribute evacuation information to residents Thursday afternoon, but at least four nursing homes began moving residents without waiting.

The sandbag-making operation at the Fargodome churned as furiously as ever, sending fresh bags out to volunteers who endured below-freezing temperatures in the race to sandbag to 43 feet.

Similar sandbagging was under way across the river in Moorhead, Minnesota, where some homes in a low-lying northern township had already flooded.

As the struggle continued in Fargo, the threat in the

state capital of Bismarck was receding. A day after explosives were used to attack an ice jam on the Missouri River south of the city of 59,000, the river had fallen by 2.5 feet. At least 1,700 people had been evacuated from low-lying areas of town before the river began to fall.

Crews were rescuing stranded residents in rural areas south of Fargo. On Wednesday, 46 people were rescued by airboat from 15 homes, and Cass County Sheriff Paul D. Laney said early Thursday that he had received another 11 evacuation requests from homeowners.

As the river crept perilously close to houses built along the Red, residents held out hope that the final sandbagging effort would work. The southern parts of the city, mostly residential areas, were seen as most vulnerable, and the city was building contingency dikes behind the main dike in some areas.

Richard Thomas, who lives in a subdivision south of Fargo, said the road leading into his neighborhood has washed out, leaving him stranded. His evacuation plan is a canoe tied to the back of his pickup.

"I got about an hour's sleep last night," Thomas said Thursday morning. "I'm so tired I can't think straight." □

## Obama turns to cyberspace for town hall session



President Barack Obama takes part in an Internet town hall meeting, Thursday, March 26, 2009, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

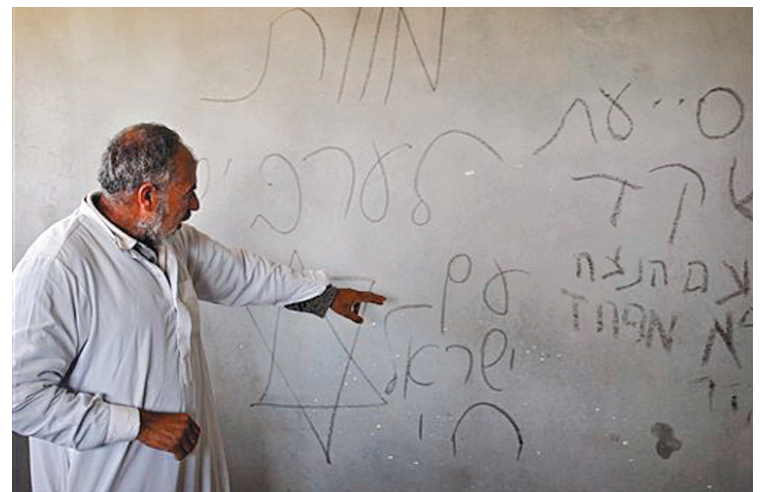
*Associated Press*

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama turned to cyberspace Thursday for an Internet town hall meeting, hoping to deepen support for his broad and expensive assault on economic hard times.

*Continued on Next Page*



A Palestinian man points at a graffiti covered wall in a home commandeered by Israeli soldiers during the recent Gaza offensive, in Gaza City, Monday, March 23, 2009. The Hebrew graffiti reads "Death to the Arabs," top left, "Long live the Jewish people", center, "The eternal people has no fear", bottom right, and "Shaked", a name referring to an army battalion. In recent testimony, several Israeli soldiers confirmed they were engaged in unnecessary destruction.

*Associated Press*

## Israel challenges Palestinian claim on Gaza death count

STEVE WEIZMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military on Thursday disputed Palestinian claims that most of the people killed in the recent Gaza Strip war were civilians, claiming the "vast majority" of the dead were Hamas militants.

Israel says the three-week offensive was aimed solely at Hamas militants, while Palestinians say hundreds of people were killed by an overwhelming show of force that showed little regard for civilians.

*Continued on Page B7*





President Barack Obama listens to a video question submitted from the Internet as he holds an 'Open For Questions' town hall style meeting in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, March 26, 2009. It was the first online town hall done in the White House.

Associated Press

## CYBERSPACE

Continued from Page B1

As he headed into the novel session, Obama was buoyed by congressional Democrats' embrace of his key budget priorities Wednesday night, pointing the way for expansive legislation this year on health care, energy and education, even as they sought to hold down deficits.

Obama is pressing his tax and spending plan as essential to long-term economic recovery by revamping the country's crippling spending on health care and to putting the nation on a path toward energy independence in the midst of the worst economic downturn in decades and a financial crisis unmatched since the 1930s Great Depression.

The latest data released Thursday showed U.S. economy shrank at a 6.3 percent pace at the end of 2008, the worst showing in a quarter-century.

As part of the administration effort, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner returned to Congress on Thursday to detail plans for an extensive overhaul of financial regulations to increase oversight of such exotic instruments as credit default swaps that have been blamed for contributing to financial meltdown.

They played a prominent role in the credit crisis that brought the downfall of investment banking giant Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. last year and pushed insurance giant American International Group Inc. (AIG) to the brink of collapse, forcing the government to provide more than \$180 billion in support. Obama kicked off a first-of-its-kind Internet-era town hall at the White House on Thursday, taking questions asked from a pool of more than 100,000 sent to the White House Web site as well as from the audience

of about 100 that was on hand for the event at the presidential mansion.

Many of the questions were on the economy. Obama reiterated his ideas of creating more jobs in high-paying, high-skill areas like clean energy technology to offset rising unemployment. Of the troubled housing market, he said his administration has made it easier for homeowners saddled with hefty mortgages and sinking home values to refinance at lower rates.

The president used the session to explain his massive budget plan, a \$3.6 trillion version of which the House of Representatives Budget Committee approved over objections from Republicans who say it spends, taxes and borrows too much. Administration critics argued Obama would drive the country into unsustainable debt.

Obama defended his budget vigorously in the town hall meeting, even as he acknowledged "a lot of critics out there." "The money we are spending on education, health

care and energy, if you add up all that increased money on what we're spending, it's still not driving up our long-term deficits," he said.

"We can't shortchange the investments that will allow us to grow in the future," Obama said.

Both the House and Senate versions of the budget plan lack specifics for any of the administration's signature proposals. And Democrats decided to cut spending and exploding deficits below levels envisioned in the Obama plan. Administration officials and congressional leaders said any differences were modest.

"This budget will protect President Obama's priorities — education, energy, health care, middle class tax relief and cut the deficit in half," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said after the chief executive met privately in the Capitol with rank-and-file Democrats. On Thursday, House Republicans released their response to Obama's budget, advocating tax cuts but offering few details in their glossy pamphlet. □

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# Sources: More U.S. troops for Afghan war

ANNE GEARAN

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned about the faltering war in Afghanistan, President Barack Obama plans to dispatch thousands more military and civilian trainers on top of the 17,000 fresh combat troops he's already ordered, people familiar with the forthcoming plan said Thursday.

Obama, who plans to lay out his revamped strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan on Friday, also will call for increasing aid to neighboring Pakistan as long as its leaders confront militants in the border region.

Several sources told The Associated Press the strategy includes 20 recommendations for countering a persistent insurgency that spans the two countries' border, including sending 4,000 U.S. trainers to try to increase the size of the Afghan army.

"It is an integrated military-civilian strategy," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told reporters in Monterrey, Mexico.

"We are convinced that the most critical underpinning of any success we hope to achieve, along with the people and government of Afghanistan, will be looking at where civilian trainers, aid workers, technical assistance of all kinds can be best utilized."

Clinton declined to go into details to avoid pre-empting Obama's announcement.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs would not discuss specifics of the plan, but said Obama is beginning to discuss its findings with members of Congress and others. Obama's top military advisers briefed key lawmakers Thursday.

In broad terms, Obama will define U.S. objectives as eliminating the threat from al-Qaida to undermine or topple U.S.-backed elected governments or to launch attacks on the United States,

its interests and allies, the sources said.

Sources described the recommendations on condition of anonymity because the final wording was not complete. The new plan identified al-Qaida as the target in a larger network of insurgents who threaten U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, often from sanctuaries across the border in Pakistan.

The additional 4,000 troops devoted to training and advising the Afghan armed forces would head to Afghanistan this spring and summer. They come on top of about 17,000 combat and support troops Obama wants in place by the end of the summer.

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said the training group is needed because there aren't enough U.S. military advisers there now.

"We've got to increase the size (of the Afghan army)

much more quickly than contemplated and the trainers are the key to that," said Levin, a Democrat.

Sen. John McCain, a Republican, said it seemed like a viable strategy as long as the manpower is there.

"I know we need more than the 17,000," he said.

Officials said there will be a directed campaign to focus attention on tribal and provincial leaders across the expansive country. With the bulk of the population living outside urban centers in small, far-flung villages, U.S. officials believe it would be more productive to build support, foster development and break down extremist ties district by district.

The plan will not abandon the central government in Kabul, said officials, but neither will it rely on bolstering efforts to govern from the capital.

Levin said the strategy will identify benchmarks to measure success in



Pierre Krahenbuhl, the director of operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross gestures during a press conference at the ICRC office in Kabul, Afghanistan on Monday, March 2, 2009. Afghan civilians will bear the brunt of an escalation in the Afghan war this year as thousands more U.S. troops deploy unless more is done by NATO forces and Taliban militants to protect them, the top Red Cross official said Monday.

Associated Press

Afghanistan. "Uncertainty is not the kind of commitment they need to succeed," he said.

The forthcoming White House review also says the U.S. will add hundreds of civilian advisers to those already in Afghanistan. The so-called civilian surge would concentrate on improving life for ordinary Afghans, and would include experts in agriculture in a country

where subsistence farming is the norm. The civilians are also meant to help extend government services and the administration of justice.

The plan notes that the top U.S. general in Afghanistan still wants some 10,000 or 11,000 additional U.S. forces next year, but does not say whether Obama intends to fulfill that request now, sources said. That decision would come by the end of this year. □

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# Treasury unveils extensive financial system overhaul

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

**AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Thursday unveiled a sweeping overhaul of the financial system in an effort to prevent a repeat of the banking crisis that has toppled once-mighty institutions and wiped out trillions of dollars in investor wealth.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told lawmakers that the changes are needed to fix the flaws exposed by the current financial crisis, the worst to hit America in seven decades.

The goal is to repair a system that has proven “too unstable and fragile,” he said.

“Over the past 18 months, we have faced the most severe global financial crisis in generations,” Geithner said in testimony to the House Financial Services Committee. “To address this will require comprehensive reform. Not modest repairs at the margin, but new rules of the game.”

The administration’s proposal, which will require congressional approval, would represent a major expansion of federal authority over the financial system. It would impose tougher standards on financial institutions judged to be so big that their failure would represent a risk to the entire system.

It also would extend federal regulations for the first time to all trading in financial derivatives, exotic financial instruments such as credit default swaps that were blamed



Appearing before the House Financial Services Committee, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner defends President Obama’s proposals for an extensive overhaul of financial regulations in an effort to prevent a repeat of last year’s banking crisis that toppled once-mighty institutions and wiped out trillions of dollars in investor wealth, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 26, 2009.

for much of the damage in the meltdown.

The administration also wants larger hedge funds to be required to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which would open their books to inspection by regulators.

Hedge funds have grown explosively in recent years while operating secretly. They have lured an increasing number of ordinary investors, pension funds and university endowments — meaning millions of Americans now unwittingly invest in hedge funds indirectly.

In addition, the administration proposed the creation of a systemic risk regulator to monitor the biggest institutions. Geithner did not designate where such

authority should reside, but the administration is expected to support awarding this power to the Federal Reserve.

The plan also includes a measure that Geithner and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke discussed before the committee on Tuesday to give the administration expanded powers to take over major nonbank financial institutions, such as insurance companies and hedge funds that were teetering on the brink of collapse.

That power was aimed at preventing a repeat of the problems surrounding insurance giant American International Group Inc., which sparked a furor last week when it was revealed the company had distributed \$165 million in bonuses to employees of its financial products group. The unit specialized in trading credit default swaps, the instruments that drove the company to near-collapse last fall.

“Let me be clear,” Geithner told the committee. “The days when a major insurance company could bet the house on credit default swaps with no one watching and no credible backing to protect the company or taxpayers must end.”

The administration, pushing for quick action on its reform agenda, sent Congress a 61-page bill dealing with the expanded powers to seize control of nonbank institutions late Wednesday.

The House committee, chaired

by Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat, has indicated it could move on the measure as early as next week. Frank said the overhaul should ensure the government has more options and can avoid repeating the unattractive choices it faced last fall of letting Lehman Brothers fail, which sent a shock wave to the entire financial system, and propping up AIG with billions of dollars.

“We are looking for an alternative method to avoid those polar extremes,” he said. While many Democratic lawmakers expressed support for Geithner’s proposals, Republicans questioned whether the overhaul would give federal regulators too much power.

“Forgive me if I am a skeptic ... when I hear that if we only have a systemic regulator it will never happen again,” Rep. Scott Garrett, a New Jersey Republican, told Geithner.

Geithner’s plan is silent on whether any consolidation of regulators is needed. It provided only a broad outline on many of the initiatives, leaving many thorny details to be worked out in Congress.

Administration officials promised that the remaining issues would be hammered out in consultation with Congress with the goal of getting legislation approved as quickly as possible.

The administration wants hedge funds and other private pools of capital, including private

equity funds and venture capital funds, to be required to register with the SEC if their assets exceed a certain size. The threshold amount has yet to be determined.

The proposal on credit default swaps and other derivatives would require the markets on which they are traded to be regulated for the first time, and for the buying and selling of these instruments to be conducted in ways that will foster greater oversight.

Credit default swaps, which trade in a \$60 trillion global market without government oversight, are contracts to insure against the default of financial instruments like bonds and corporate debt. They played a prominent role in the credit crisis that brought the downfall of investment banking giant Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. last fall and nearly unraveled AIG, forcing the government to provide more than \$180 billion in support.

Hedge funds, vast pools of capital holding an estimated \$1.5 trillion in assets, operate mostly outside of government supervision. As the market crisis deepened last fall, hedge fund selling was widely cited as one of the reasons for increased volatility that pounded stocks and bonds. Hedge funds also suffered huge losses last year, notably from investments in securities tied to subprime mortgages.

The outline of the regulatory reform was unveiled a week before President Barack Obama is scheduled to meet for discussions among the Group of 20 major industrialized and developing countries in London to assess what needs to be done to deal with the global financial crisis.

While the administration is pushing other nations to follow the U.S. lead in putting together sizable economic stimulus programs to jump-start global growth, many in Europe are resisting those calls and arguing that the U.S. needs to do more to toughen financial regulations. They believe the current troubles can be traced to lax regulation in the U.S. over such key areas as hedge funds and credit default swaps. □



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# 28 injured as tornados rip through southern Miss.

**HOLBROOK MOHR**  
Associated Press Writer  
MAGEE, Mississippi (AP) — A tornado destroyed dozens of homes and businesses in this small Mississippi community early Thursday, injuring 20 people and flattening a church.

The fierce storm system also scattered thunderstorms across the South as it churned eastward, leaving a trail of ripped-up rooftops, shattered mobile homes, and downed power lines and trees.

Mayor Jimmy Clyde in the south-central town of Magee

said stunned residents were still surveying the destruction from a pre-dawn twister that smashed through dozens of homes, apartment duplexes and even toppled a church and cemetery tombstones.

"This is like reliving Hurricane Katrina all over again, and that's no fun," Clyde said as office phones rang constantly with reports of storm-damaged neighborhoods and lost power and water service. "We got hit back then, and we've really been hit now."

Power blackouts affected tens of thousands of Louisiana

residents, and authorities reported damage to some Alabama homes. Georgia residents braced for potentially heavy rains.

Mississippi's governor declared a state of emergency in Simpson County where Magee is located.

Stephanie Malley, 35, cried as she looked at the shell of her home, its roof gone. She awoke when flying debris hit her in the back. She grabbed her 11- and 13-year-old sons and pulled them into a bathroom.

"We stayed in the bathroom for



Magee, Miss., emergency personnel survey damage to the Corinth Baptist Church following a hit by an early morning tornado which also destroyed several homes and businesses, Thursday, March 26, 2009. .

Associated Press

a long time until everything started coming down," Malley said.

Nearby houses were marked with red spray paint to show that emergency workers who dug through the rubble didn't find any injured or dead residents.

Members of the 100-year-old church stepped around the red brick rubble and walked through a cemetery where tombstones were knocked to the ground. A white church

van was overturned.

There were still plans to hold Sunday services in the parking lot, however.

"Our church is still here, because our church is the people, but the building is gone," said member Charlene Loyd.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the roof over Louisiana State University's \$3.1 million indoor football practice field was damaged overnight by a passing storm. □

## Hundreds of Pa. juvenile convictions reversed

By **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**  
Associated Press Writer  
ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Pennsylvania's highest court on Thursday overturned hundreds of juvenile convictions issued by a corrupt judge who took millions of dollars in kickbacks from youth detention centers.

The state Supreme Court ruled that former Luzerne County President Judge Mark Ciavarella violated the constitutional rights of youth offenders who appeared in his courtroom without lawyers between 2003 and 2008.

"Today's order is not intended to be a quick fix," Chief

Justice Ronald Castille said in a statement. "It's going to take some time, but the Supreme Court is committed to righting whatever wrong was perpetrated on Luzerne's juveniles and their families."

In one of the most egregious cases of judicial corruption ever seen, federal prosecutors

charged Ciavarella and another Luzerne County judge, Michael Conahan, with taking \$2.6 million in payoffs to put juvenile offenders in privately owned lockups.

The judges pleaded guilty to fraud last month and face sentences of more than seven years in prison. □

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# North Korea positions rocket for April liftoff



By **JEAN H. LEE**  
**Associated Press Writer**  
SEOUL, South Korea – North Korea’s positioning of a rocket on its east coast launchpad ratcheted up tensions Thursday with Washington, which warned that pushing ahead with the April launch would violate a U.N. ban and have serious consequences. Pyongyang says the rocket

is designed to carry its Kwangmyongsong-2 satellite into orbit, an accomplishment timed for the eve of the inaugural session of North Korea’s new parliament and for late founder Kim Il Sung’s April 15 birthday. But regional powers suspect the North will use the launch to test the delivery technology for a long-range missile, one capable of striking Alaska, or may even test-fire the intercontinental Taepodong-2 missile itself. Keeping speculation about the payload alive, North Korea reportedly has kept the top of the rocket covered. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs on Thursday reiterated comments made a day earlier by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that any rocket launch would be “provocative” and violate Security Council resolutions. Clinton warned that the launch could jeopardize the stalled talks on supplying North Korea with aid and other concessions

in exchange for dismantling its nuclear program. The U.N. Security Council banned North Korea from any ballistic activity in 2006. “We intend to raise this violation of the Security Council resolution, if it goes forward, in the U.N.,” Clinton said Wednesday in Mexico City. “This provocative action in violation of the U.N. mandate will not go unnoticed, and there will be consequences.” North Korea responded by threatening “strong steps” if the Security Council so much as criticizes the launch, and suggested it will reverse nuclear disablement carried out so far if sanctions are levied. Any challenge to its satellite launch would mean an immediate nullification of disarmament agreements, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried late Thursday by the state-run Korean Central News Agency. The diplomatic tussle puts North Korea right where it wants to be:

at the center of Washington’s attention, analysts said. “This action is something that cannot be ignored. ... This is a way to get attention from the U.S. and the Obama administration,” said Daniel Pinkston, a Seoul-based analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank. “The North Korean leadership probably believes this will help achieve their objective of engaging the U.S.” Analysts say Pyongyang is angling to establish direct relations with President Barack Obama’s White House in hopes of circumventing the international disarmament talks that require the North to dismantle its nuclear program in exchange for much-needed aid. Complicating the diplomacy is the detention of two American journalists, Euna Lee and Laura Ling of former Vice President Al Gore’s online media venture Current TV, for allegedly crossing into North Korea

illegally from China last week. North Korea could use the Americans as bargaining chips, said North Korea expert Koh Yu-hwan of Dongguk University. He called their detention an “unexpected gift” for Pyongyang, giving the regime added leverage in its push for direct talks with Washington. “The timing couldn’t be better for North Korea,” Pinkston said. “It strengthens the North’s bargaining position with the U.S. in dealing with the nuclear issue.” North Korea had declared last month that it was making “brisk headway” in preparations to shoot the satellite into space, and notified aviation and maritime authorities the launch would happen April 4-8. U.S. spy satellites spotted the rocket two days ago, South Korean media reports said. Counterterrorism and intelligence officials in Washington confirmed a rocket was in position. □



THE CINEMAS

# NEW RELEASES

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last week



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 26- APRIL 1				
*matinee: saturday and sunday   late show: friday and saturday				
AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD				
PG-13	12 ROUNDS			NEW
	daily: 5:15 7:40 9:55			
	matinee: 12:35 2:55 late show: 12:10			
R	GRAN TORINO			
	daily: 4:50 7:25 9:40			
	matinee: 11:55 2:20 late show: 12:10			
R	WATCHMEN			
	daily: 4:40 7:50			
	matinee: 1:25 late show: 11:00			
PG	THE PINK PANTHER 2			
	daily: 4:00 6:20 8:20			
	matinee: 12:05 2:05 late show: 10:20 12:30			
PG-13	MADEA GOES TO JAIL			
	daily: 5:20 7:35 9:55			
	matinee: 12:55 3:10 late show: 12:05			
PG	PAUL BLART: MALL COP			
	daily: 4:15 6:20 8:20			
	matinee: 12:10 2:15 late show: 10:15 12:15			
R	THE INTERNATIONAL			
	daily: 6:05 8:30			
	matinee: late show: 11:10			
AT PASEO HERENCIA				
PG-13	12 ROUNDS			NEW
	daily: 5:10 7:30 9:50			
	matinee: 12:25 2:50 late show: 12:05			
R	WATCHMEN			
	daily: 4:40 8:00			
	matinee: 1:15 late show: 11:10			
R	GRAN TORINO			
	daily: 4:55 7:15 9:45			
	matinee: 12:00 2:30 late show: 12:10			
PG-13	MADEA GOESTO JAIL			
	daily: 5:30 7:45 10:00			
	matinee: 1:00 3:20 late show: 12:10			
PG	PAUL BLART: MALL COP			
	daily: 4:15 6:10 8:10			
	matinee: 12:10 2:15 late show: 10:15 12:25			
PG	THE PINK PANTHER 2			
	daily: 4:40 2:45 late show:			
	matinee: 12:35			
R	THE INTERNATIONAL			
	daily: 6:55 9:30			
	matinee: late show: 12:00			
DRIVE-IN March 26 – March 29				
R	THE INTERNATIONAL			
	Thursday: 8:00 Friday: 8:00 & 10:30			
PG	PAUL BLART: MALL COP			
	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday: 8:00			



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## DEATH COUNT

*Continued from page B1*

Maj. Avital Leibovich, an army spokeswoman, said Thursday that the military had completed an investigation and determined that a total of 1,166 Palestinians were killed in the operation. It found that 709 were Hamas militants, while 295 were civilians, including 89 minors and 49 women. It was unclear whether another 162 men who died were militants or civilians.

The figures clashed with numbers released last week by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, which said 1,417 people were killed, including more than 900 civilians. Its toll included the names and ages of all of the dead.

The Israeli military said it also had a list of names, but the army did not provide it to reporters.

The Palestinian center Thursday called the Israeli report "a deliberately manipulative attempt to distort the reality of the offensive and to disguise Israel's illegal actions." It said, for instance, that Israel wrongly classified 255 "noncombatant" police officers killed at the outset of the war as militants.

The heavy civilian death toll caused an international outcry and fueled calls from human rights groups for a war crimes investigation against Israel.

An Israeli military school's publication last week of

soldiers' accounts of wanton destruction and slack rules of engagement that may have caused unnecessary civilian deaths, has added to the uproar.

The military's report was unlikely to resolve the debate over the death toll, although Leibovich said the army's information was "checked, crisscrossed and double-checked with the different intelligence bodies in Israel." When asked to explain the discrepancy, she said "you have to ask your Palestinian sources" and acknowledged it was not a precise science.

"We are receiving different information from different sources, the majority of which is not based on hard evidence," she said. "I can tell you for a fact that our information is checked according to different intelligence organizations and Palestinian authorities and these are the right figures."

Israel waged the war in Gaza in an attempt to weaken Hamas, which it considers a terrorist group, and halt persistent rocket fire from Gaza on Israeli border towns.

Israel blames Hamas for the heavy civilian casualties, saying the group launches attacks from schools and residential areas and uses civilians as "human shields" to deter Israeli attacks.

President Barack Obama's administration has promised to become "vigorously engaged" in the search to end

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, poses for photographers as she shakes hands with Mexico's Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa at a press conference in Mexico City, Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Clinton is in Mexico for a two-day visit.

*Associated Press*  
the Israeli-Arab conflict and has pledged \$900 million to help rebuild homes and infrastructure destroyed in the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip. Incoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who harshly criticized his predecessor's peace efforts and said the Palestinians were not ready for independence said Thursday he does not expect to face pressure from Obama due to the "deep and strong" ties between Israel and the United States.

Netanyahu is expected to present his center-right coalition to parliament next week.

After signing a coalition pact with the centrist Labor Party Wednesday Netanyahu appeared to soften his previous stance, pledging that his government would be a "partner for peace with the Palestinians."

At a White House press conference the day before, Obama described the current deadlock between Israel and the Palestinians as unsustainable.

"It is critical for us to advance a two-state solution," he added. □



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan. Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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## At Papillon Restaurant in The Village Henri Charrière would have had the time of his life



PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping autobiography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink

at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba; this is luxury living for anyone!

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 5865400.



## Papillon RESTAURANT

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PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot. Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course. Bugaloe is located on De Palm Pier on the beach between the RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort at the Hi-Rise strip: an easy walk from all the major hotels.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com) and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well. A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Joyride, Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com). Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



### Kim Clijsters returns from retirement

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BREE, Belgium (AP) — Kim Clijsters is returning to the tennis circuit after two years in retirement, saying she has regained the competitive hunger that took her to the No. 1 ranking.

"I still have that craving," the 25-year-old Belgian said Thursday. "I look forward to the challenge."

Clijsters, who retired in May 2007 to get married and start a family, announced her comeback at the tennis facility in Bree, Belgium, where she has been practicing recently. She said she has already asked for wild cards for WTA hard-court tournaments in Cincinnati and Toronto in August and the U.S. Open.

"I want to be back at my peak as soon as possible, but I know that is not logical to ask that," Clijsters said. "I will have to take it match by match."

The U.S. Tennis Association is setting aside a spot in the main draw for Clijsters at the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 31.

"We have been in contact with Kim regarding her comeback and have committed a 2009 U.S. Open wild card to her," tournament director Jim Curley said. "As a past U.S. Open champion and former world No. 1, Kim has been a great ambassador for our sport. We are excited about Kim's return to tennis and look forward to welcoming her to New York this summer."

Clijsters won the 2005 U.S. Open for her one Grand Slam title. She won 34 career titles overall and was runner-up in four Grand Slam finals.

Rising to the top at the same time as another Belgian who retired early, Justine Henin, Clijsters held the No. 1 singles ranking for 19 weeks.

"I am not coming back to lose in the first rounds," she said. "Otherwise I might as well go



Belgium's Kim Clijsters gestures while speaking during a media conference at the Boneput tennis center in Bree, Belgium, on Thursday, March 26, 2009.

Associated Press

on holiday."

Clijsters returns at a time when the WTA tour is wide open and without a single player dominating the rankings.

"I am amazed how many players I don't even know," she said. "There are even many names I do not know how to pronounce."

Clijsters, who is married to American basketball player Brian Lynch and gave birth to her daughter Jada last year, is convinced she has the maturity now to juggle marriage, motherhood and top tennis.

"Now I have the right balance and I feel good," she said.

Clijsters refused to commit herself beyond the U.S. Open, preferring to make an assessment at that stage.

"One year, two or three, it is far too early to start answering those questions," she said.

Flashing her disarming smile and with her blonde curls tied in a ponytail, Clijsters exuded the easygoing charm which made her a fan favorite around the world.

Her career was marred by a series of injuries, including to her hip and back.

"I know a lot, lot more about my body," Clijsters said, adding that she has an exercise regimen designed to prevent injuries.

Clijsters was already set to join Steffi Graf, Andre

Agassi and Tim Henman for a series of exhibition matches at Wimbledon on May 17 to test conditions under the new retractable roof on Centre Court. She said it was while preparing for the Wimbledon exhibition that the competitive edge came back.

Soon, she was spotted at the training center putting in long hours. When she was seen at the basketball court to support her husband, she had that lean streak in her face again.

"I have never trained harder," she said. □



Houston Astros baseball shortstop Miguel Tejada waves as he leaves federal Court in Washington, Thursday, March 26, 2009, after receiving a sentence of one year probation for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Associated Press

### Tejada gets probation for misleading Congress

HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada has been sentenced to one year of probation for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Tejada faced possible prison time, but U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay issued a sentence of probation, 100 hours of community service and a \$5,000 fine. Kay waived drug testing often required of other convicts on probation and said he wouldn't restrict the Houston Astros player's travel.

Tejada stood before the judge and gave a 45-second statement, speaking softly in accented English. He said he takes "full responsibility for not answering the question" and apologized to Congress, fans of his sport, "and especially the kids."

He added: "I learned a very important lesson." □

### Serena Williams voted player of the year



Defending champion Serena Williams responds to a question during a news conference at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla. Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Serena Williams was voted the WTA Tour player of the year for the second time on Thursday. Williams also received the award for 2002. She won the U.S. Open in September and ended last year ranked No. 1. Dinara Safina was selected most improved player

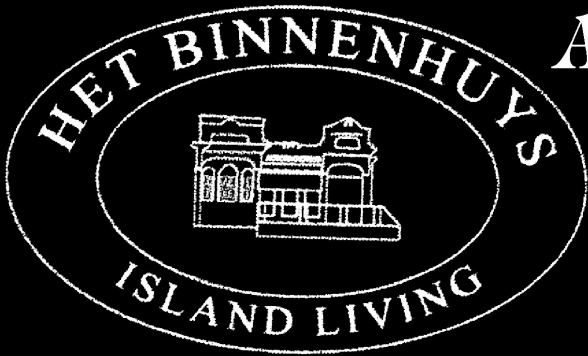
for 2008, and Zheng Jie of China was chosen comeback player of the year. Top-ranked Cara Black of Zimbabwe and Liezel Huber of the United States were chosen doubles team of the year for the second time.

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark was selected newcomer of the year. Ana Ivanovic was chosen humanitarian of the year for her work and contributions to UNICEF, and Elena Dementieva was honored with the Karen Krantzcke sportsmanship award.

Williams was the only winner not to attend a ceremony at the Sony Ericsson Open to honor the award winners.

"Winning the player of the year award for the second time in my career is a great personal achievement," Williams said in a statement. "I feel great about my game and hope to win many more player of the year titles in the years to come." □





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# Tiger surges into contention at Bay Hill

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — In their own way, Jason Gore and Tiger Woods changed their fortunes at the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Thursday.

Gore was not seeing any results from an overhaul to his swing until he ran off three birdies over the final four holes for a 5-under 65 that gave him a one-shot lead.

Woods was in the water, in the trees and in a foul mood until he had eight consecutive one-putts — including four straight birdies — that put him in a good frame of mind with a 68 on a course where he has won five times as a pro.

“I was not hitting it well, and I had to scramble and grind it out and manage to score,”

Woods said. He managed just fine, taking only 24 putts in the first round after ranking 74th in putting out of 79 players at the CA Championship two weeks ago.

Tim Herron, who won here in a playoff 10 years ago, and Jeff Overton had a 66, while the group at 67 included the ever-present Nick Watney and Mark Wilson, who had reason to feel outclassed on the first tee but more than held his own.

Wilson was in the same group as Woods and Padraig Harrington, who have won five of the last six majors. Wilson has his own history with Woods, having lost a late lead in 1992 when Woods rallied to win his second U.S. Junior Amateur.

But Wilson had the best day of the threesome. Harrington saved par from the water on the 18th for a 70.

“Scored best of the three,” Wilson said, a slight distinction. “I had a good time out there. I love playing with Tiger. The electricity and the energy on that first tee is something else with him.”

Imagine the surge on the opening hole, when Woods had a difficult flop shot from about 30 yards that had to carry a bunker. Wilson wondered if Woods might begin his title defense at Bay Hill with a double bogey. Then he watched Woods’ shot pitch about 6 feet from the hole and roll like a putt into the cup for birdie.

Woods hit a tee shot into the



Tiger Woods and spectators watch his tee shot on the 18th hole during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, March 26, 2009.

Associated Press

## King complains over Khan-Barrera bout

LONDON (AP) — Promoter Don King has filed a protest over Marco Antonio Barrera’s loss to Amir Khan, saying the lightweight bout should have been declared a no-contest after their accidental early clash of heads.

Khan won the March 14 fight in Manchester after the ring doctor stopped the contest in the fifth round.

Barrera had sustained a huge cut on the left side of his head during the second minute of the fight when the two boxers banged heads. Blood spilled into his left eye through the remaining rounds.

Had the fight been stopped in the fourth round it would have been declared a no-contest, triggering a rematch.

King filed his complaint with the British Boxing Board of Control, World Boxing Organization and World Boxing Association.

“Amir Khan is in possession of a tainted victory,” King said Thursday in a statement. “The referee and doctor should have stopped the fight immediately after that incredible, accidental clash of heads.”

“That they allowed the fight to continue with Barrera competing at a huge disadvantage goes against everything that’s designed to protect the health and safety of boxers, the good of the sport and uphold the traditions emanating from the Marquis of Queensbury rules.” □



Mexico’s Marco Antonio Barrera returns to his corner covered in blood during his loss to Britain’s Amir Khan in a WBA International Lightweight Championship boxing fight in Manchester, England, Saturday, March 14, 2009.

Associated Press

water at No. 6 for double bogey, was lucky to escape with pars at the turn and made four birdies on the back nine to get off to a good start.

The only other player at Bay Hill with such charisma is Palmer, the tournament host. Gore can attest to that.

He was 11 when his family went to Pittsburgh one summer and Gore had his mother drive him to Latrobe Country Club. They walked into the pro shop and asked if the King was around, and before long Palmer drove up in a cart that looked like a tractor.

“He took a picture with us, signed a scorecard and he said, ‘Son, I’m going to go hit balls. Would like to come watch?’” Gore said. “I sat right on the little slope right behind the first tee and watched Mr. Palmer hit balls for about 45 minutes. And from that point

on, I knew I wanted to be a professional golfer.”

Gore is a U.S. PGA Tour winner, but the golf hasn’t gone so well lately.

He lost his tour card last year, then decided after Q-school to work with Mike Abbott and redo his swing. Gore wouldn’t ordinarily make it to an event like the Arnold Palmer Invitational, but he received an exemption.

That was no accident.

Gore told Palmer last year at a corporate outing how much he had influenced his life. When he saw him earlier this month at Seminole, he thanked Palmer for the exemption. Palmer winked at him and replied, “I never forgot that story.” “The littlest things he does for a punk dressed in surf clothes who was trespassing on his property changes lives,” Gore said. □

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# Australia upsets Britain in women's team sprint



**Taylor Phinney of the U.S. reacts after winning the Men's Individual Pursuit in the World Track Cycling Championships at Pruszkow, near Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, March 26, 2009.**

*Associated Press*

**RYAN LUCAS**

**Associated Press Writer**

PRUSZKOW, Poland (AP) — Australia's Kaarle McCulloch and Anna Meares upset British defending champions Victoria Pendleton and Shanaze Reade to win the team sprint at the track world championships on Thursday.

Also, American teenager Taylor Phinney won the individual pursuit, Morgan Kneisky of France captured the scratch title, Germany's Maximilian Levy won the keirin, and Britain outpaced New Zealand for the women's team pursuit crown.

McCulloch and Meares finished the sprint in a blistering 33.149 seconds. Pendleton and Reade, world champions the previous two years, crossed in 33.380. Lithuania beat France to finish third.

"We really did have to beat the best in the game to do it, and that's a great feeling," Meares said. "It's such a big high." Pendleton and Reade, also the BMX world champ, thought they had enough speed.

"After the first ride Shanaze and I knew we needed to find another tenth (of a second) to beat the Australian team. We both did, but we didn't anticipate the Australians would find more speed for the final," Pendleton said.

Kneisky gave France its second gold medal of the competition with his win in the scratch race. Riding most of the 60 laps in a breakaway group of six riders, Kneisky made his move on the final turn to edge past Angel Dario Colla of Argentina and Travis Meyer of Australia at the line. Colla took the silver and Meyer the bronze.

"It's unimaginable, it's fantastic, it's a dream," said Kneisky, who will also compete in the madison on Saturday.

Britain's Mark Cavendish, a sprint standout who won the Milan-San Remo classic last week, fell back early and finished

seventh.

Phinney, meanwhile, outclassed Jack Bobridge of Australia in 4 minutes, 17.631 seconds to win his first world pursuit title. Bobridge finished almost three seconds back.

"I came here and definitely expected myself to win," Phinney said. "I came and did what I had to do and it feels good."

The 18-year-old Phinney, the son of 1984 Olympic medalists Connie Carpenter-Phinney and Davis Phinney, set a new U.S. record of 4:15.160 in qualifying, breaking the mark he set at the World Cup last month in Copenhagen.

"My mom was pursuit world champion, my dad was a great sprinter, so I sort of see myself as having this big genetic advantage over everybody else, and it's sort of written in my gene code that I should be good at this event," Phinney said. "So it's something that I take forward and have a little mental edge over everybody else."

Elizabeth Armitstead, Wendy Houvenaghel and Joanna Rowsell successfully defended Britain's team pursuit title against New Zealand's Lauren Ellis, Jaime Nielsen and Alison Shanks in the final. It was Britain's first gold at the 2009 championships after dominating last year's worlds.

Australia beat the Netherlands for the bronze.

In the men's keirin, Maximilian Levy edged Francois Pervis of France and Teun Mulder of the Netherlands to claim the gold in a wild sprint finish. Pervis finished second and Mulder was third.

"I could feel with one lap to go when I got to the front that it's so fast and just go, go, go, and then I crossed the finish line," Levy said.

Britain's Chris Hoy has dominated the event in recent years, but was missing after injuring his hip last month in Copenhagen. Olympic silver medalist Ross Edgar of Britain finished fourth, while teammate Matthew Crampton was fifth. □

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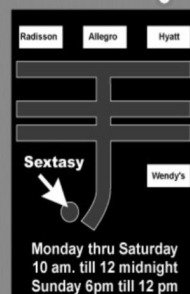
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# Clinton visita a Virgen de Guadalupe y policías en México

MONTERREY, México (Reuters) - La secretaria de Estado estadounidense Hillary Clinton depositó un arreglo de rosas blancas en la Basílica de Guadalupe y vio a la policía tomar por asalto un avión en un simulacro de rescate de rehenes el jueves durante el cierre de su visita de dos días a México.

Imágenes tan desiguales ilustran la complejidad de la relación entre Estados Unidos y México, países ligados por lazos culturales y familiares, pero además por el tráfico ilegal de drogas y la violencia que genera.

Durante sus múltiples apariciones en público en su viaje, Clinton trató de pintar una relación México-Estados Unidos más sutil que la mostrada por los duros encabezados periodísticos que dan cuenta de la sangrienta guerra del narcotráfico.

México enfrenta una ola de violencia brutal generada por la lucha entre los cárteles por el dominio de territorios y de estos con las fuerzas federales que buscan frenarlos, en una guerra que dejó 6,300 muertos el año pasado.

Clinton inició sus actividades del jueves con una

visita a la Basílica de Guadalupe, un enorme templo católico construido en la década de 1970 cerca del lugar donde la creencia popular dice que la Virgen María se le apareció al indígena Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin en el Siglo XVI.

Clinton colocó un arreglo de rosas blancas cerca del altar en el que se exhibe la tilma de Juan Diego, que cuenta con un pasillo mecánico que agiliza la vista que realizan millones de fieles cada año.

Una hora después, visitó una base policial en el popular barrio de Iztapalapa donde presenció un ejercicio de entrenamiento.

“Estos dos días han mostrado claramente la amplitud y profundidad de la relación Estados Unidos-México”, dijo Clinton en una conferencia en la nortea ciudad de Monterrey.

Clinton terminó sus actividades en Monterrey, una próspera ciudad industrial cercana a la frontera con Estados Unidos, que ha registrado un incremento en la violencia del narcotráfico en los últimos seis meses. □



La secretaria de Estado estadounidense, Hillary Clinton, durante su visita a la Basílica de Guadalupe en Ciudad de México, 26 mar 2009. REUTERS/Daniel Aguilar

## Revelan nuevo plan FARC para asesinar ministro Defensa Colombia

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - Un comando guerrillero de las FARC planeaba asesinar al ministro de Defensa de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, en su finca de descanso donde los rebeldes pretendían ingresar simulando ser efectivos de la Policía Nacional, informó el jueves un oficial de alto rango. El nuevo plan que se develó forma parte de las intenciones

de las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) para ejecutar un golpe de resonancia que desprestigie la política de seguridad del presidente Alvaro Uribe, aseguraron fuentes militares. El director de la Policía Nacional, general Oscar Naranjo, dijo que en los últimos 22 meses se han develado 11 planes para

asesinar a Santos, quien coordina la lucha de las Fuerzas Armadas contra la guerrilla y el narcotráfico y se perfila como posible candidato para remplazar a Uribe en el 2010.

El oficial precisó que el plan se descubrió después de que el Ejército confiscó un computador de las FARC en el que estaba detallado. Naranjo aseguró que esa

información permitió capturar a 10 guerrilleros de la columna Teófilo Forero de las FARC, 8 de ellos en Anapoima, una población ubicada cerca a Bogotá en donde Santos suele pasar los fines de semana con su familia.

“El plan estaba en marcha, nos incautamos de una motocicleta pintada con los símbolos de la policía, de uniformes de la Policía Nacional, un fusil y varias armas cortas”, declaró el oficial.

### FRUSTRADO MAGNICIDIO

“Hemos evitado un magnicidio, toda la célula está capturada y este plan terrorista de las FARC neutralizado”, explicó el oficial. Las Fuerzas Armadas permanecen en estado de máxima alerta para evitar acciones de la guerrilla, que de acuerdo con información de inteligencia pretende celebrar el primer aniversario de la muerte de su máximo líder, Manuel Marulanda, con ataques de gran impacto. Marulanda murió el 26 de

marzo del 2008 de un ataque al corazón, mientras que Raúl Reyes, otro líder de las FARC, falleció ese mismo mes en un bombardeo de militares colombianos en Ecuador e Iván Ríos fue asesinado por uno de sus escoltas.

Ese grupo guerrillero ha sido diezmado por la ofensiva militar y pasó de tener unos 17.000 combatientes en el año 2000 a unos 9.000 en la actualidad, una reducción que además de las muertes en combates se debe a la desertión de miles de sus integrantes, de acuerdo con el Gobierno.

Pese a que los ataques con explosivos se han reducido en los últimos años, al igual que los asesinatos, las masacres y los secuestros, aún se presentan como parte del conflicto interno de más de cuatro décadas que cobra miles de vidas.

“Toda nuestra solidaridad con el señor ministro, con su familia, y toda nuestra determinación de combatir a los terroristas”, dijo el presidente Uribe al referirse al frustrado plan contra Santos. □

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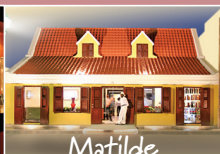
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